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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,850	04/09/2004	Paul M. Sutherland	NWK1885	8669

34356 7590 04/07/2005

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JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216

EXAMINER

CHUNG TRANS, XUONG MY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,850

Applicant(s)

SUTHERLAND, PAUL M.

Examiner

Xuong M. Chung-Trans

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1- 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitz (USPN 5,533,917) in view of Fleshman Jr. (USPN 4,886,471) and Conrad (USPN 3,786,393).

As per claim 1, Schmitz discloses the invention substantially as claimed, comprising: at least one male plug 16 inherently having a substantially cylindrical body and front and rear end portions, said body having a centrally disposed Longitudinal axis and including an elongated prong section extending therealong, said prong section being integral with said body and having a first end portion disposed substantially medially of said front and rear end portions and further having a second end portion spaced forwardly of said front end portion for being removably positionable into an input jack 14 of an electronic device 10. Schmitz does not explicitly disclose that rear end portion of said body having indicia thereon unique to a select input jack 14; and at least one female plug having a substantially cylindrical body and a centrally disposed longitudinal axis, said body having a groove formed therein and extending along the longitudinal axis thereof for receiving a male end portion of a wire when removed from

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an input jack, said body further having a visible front end portion having indicia thereon, said front end portion indicia corresponding to said rear end portion indicia so that a user can identify a select input jack for receiving a corresponding wire. Fleshman, however, discloses in figs. 1-4 such a female plug (10, 101) having a substantially cylindrical body 18, 102 and a centrally disposed longitudinal axis, said body having a groove 16, 104 formed therein and extending along the longitudinal axis thereof for receiving a male end portion 56 of a wire 71, 70 when removed from an input jack body. Therefore it would have been obvious to a skilled artisan at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Fleshman in the invention of Schmitz in order to prevent damage to the unused connector contact. Conrad in figs. 1-7 teaches the use of the indicia 16, 32 marked on the surface for accurately position the correct electronic package in the correct receptacle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a skilled artisan at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Fleshman in the invention of Schmitz in order to guide the user to visually observe and accurately install or setting up the system.

As per claim 2, Conrad discloses indicia have identical numerals.

As per claim 3, it is obvious that the indicia can have identical colors as desired.

As per claims 4-6, Official notice is taken that that the prong section can be formed from non-conductive material, and can be formed any shape depending on application.

As per claim 7, Fleshman discloses that the female plug is formed

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from non-conductive material.

As per claims 8-18, these claims recite similar subject matter as claims 1-7, therefore, they are rejected under the similar rationale.

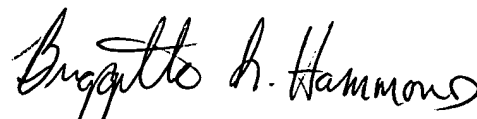
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xuong M. Chung-Trans whose telephone number is (571) 272-2002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 extension 33.. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



X. Chung-Trans


Brigitte A. Hammond
Primary Examiner